



U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration

Information

May 2000

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. merchant marine is a fleet of privately owned, U.S. registered merchant ships which provide waterborne transportation for cargoes moving in domestic and international commerce. Employment on these ships is the responsibility of the owners and is handled for the most part by maritime labor unions. Part-time or summer employment is not available. The level of seafaring employment is determined by the state of U.S. and world business conditions and improvements in ship technology.

This pamphlet provides information on shipboard employment. Other categories of employment in the maritime industry include shipbuilding and ship repair, longshoring (cargo handling), port terminal administration, dredging, towing and offshore oil and mineral operations.

UNITED STATES MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) has Regional Offices in areas of concentrated shipping activity and can provide information on seafaring employment and training. MARAD is also responsible for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. Addresses and telephone numbers are:

Maritime Administration
North Atlantic Region Director
1 Bowling Green Room 418
New York, NY 10004-1415
Telephone: 212-668-3330

Maritime Administration
South Atlantic Region Director
7737 Hampton Boulevard
Building 4D, Room 211
Norfolk, VA 23505
Telephone: 757-441-6393

Maritime Administration
Great Lakes Region Director
2860 South River Road
Suite 185
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2413
Telephone: 847-298-4535

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Great Lakes Region Director
2860 South River Road, Suite 185
Des Plaines, IL 60018-2413
Telephone: 847-298-4535

Maritime Administration
Central Region Director
501 Magazine Street , Room 1223
New Orleans, LA 70130-3394
Telephone: 504- 589-2000

Maritime Administration
Western Region Director
201 Mission Street, Suite 2200
San Francisco, CA 94105-1905
Telephone: 415-744-3125

Superintendent
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699
Telephone: 516-773-5000

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

The United States Coast Guard is the regulatory agency responsible for licensing and documentation of all U.S. merchant mariners at United States Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers (REC). Prospective applicants for seafaring employment are encouraged to contact the nearest office for local advice and explanation of regulations.

List of U.S. Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers (RECs):

ALASKA, Anchorage

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC),
510 L St., Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501-1946
907-271-6736

ALASKA, Juneau

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
2760 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A Juneau, AK
99801-8545 907-463-2458

CALIFORNIA, Alameda

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
Building 14, Room 109,
Coast Guard Island Alameda, CA 94501-5100
510-437-3092

CALIFORNIA, Long Beach

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
165 N. Pico Avenue Long Beach, CA 90802
562-980-4485

FLORIDA, Miami

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
Claude Pepper Federal Building 6th Floor,
51 S.W. First Avenue Miami, FL 33130-1609
305-536-6548/6874

HAWAII, Honolulu

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
433 Ala Moana Boulevard Honolulu, HI 96813
808-522-8264

LOUISIANA, New Orleans

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Inspection Office (REC)
9820 Lake Forest Blvd., Suite P
New Orleans, LA 70127-3077
504-589-6183

MARYLAND Baltimore

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
U.S. Custom House, 40 South Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-4022
410-962-5132

MASSACHUSETTS, Boston

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine safety Office (REC)
445 Commercial Street
Boston, MA 02109-1045
617-223-3040

MISSOURI, St Louis

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
1222 Spruce Street, Suite 104E
St. Louis, MO 63103-2835
314-539-3091

NEW YORK, New York

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Inspection Office (REC)
Battery Park Building
New York, NY 10004-8545
212-668-7492

OHIO, Toledo

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
Room 501, Federal Building,
234 Summit Street
Toledo, OH 43604-1590
419-259-6395

OREGON, Portland

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
6767 N. Basin Avenue
Portland, OR 97217-3992
503-240-9346

SOUTH CAROLINA, Charleston

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
196 Tradd Street
Charleston, SC 29401-1899
803-724-7693

TENNESSEE, Memphis

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (REC)
200 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 1302
Memphis, TN 38103-901-544-3297

TEXAS, Houston

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Inspection Office (REC)
8876 Gulf Freeway Suite 200,
Houston, TX 77017-6595
713-947-0044

WASHINGTON, Seattle

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Inspection Office (REC)
1519 Alaskan Way S.
Seattle, WA 98134-1192
206-217-6115

TYPICAL SALARIES

Crew members of American merchant ships enjoy excellent pay, and working and living conditions. Most jobs provide 13 days or more paid vacation for each 30 days worked. An example of typical pay on a modern merchant vessel is shown below:

<i>Officer Ratings</i>	<i>Monthly Base Wage</i>	<i>90% Overtime</i>	<i>Total</i>
Third Assistant Engineer	\$3375	\$3053	\$6420
Third Mate	\$3375	\$3053	\$6429
Radio Officer	\$4748	\$4294	\$9041

Crew Ratings

Able Seaman	\$2326	\$2104	\$4431
QMED	\$3309	\$2993	\$6303
Engine Utility	\$2404	\$2174	\$4579
Chief Cook	\$2431	\$2199	\$4630
Food Handler	\$1615	\$1461	\$3076

THE MERCHANT MARINER'S DOCUMENT

Merchant Mariner's Documents (MMD) are issued by an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI) as required by applicable laws. With certain exceptions, no one may be employed on a U.S. flag merchant vessel of 100 gross tons or over without a MMD issued by one of the U.S. Coast Guard

Regional Examination Centers (REC's) previously listed above. All MMD's expire five years from the issue date and therefore must be renewed within that five year period. Renewals may be completed by mail.

Application for an original MMD: No evidence of service is required to obtain entry level rating. An applicant must present evidence of passing a drug test, a social security card, and proof of legal entry into the United States. For mariners wishing to have their entry level MMD endorsed for international service, evidence of medical fitness (agility, ability, and strength) is required. Evidence of service, and in some cases evidence of approved training, must be presented to establish service qualifications for individuals seeking qualified ratings. The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) requires extensive training for mariners in qualified ratings who wish to sail internationally.

Applicants must meet the following general requirements:

- a. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age. An applicant between 16 and 18 years of age must present a notarized statement of parental or guardian's consent.

- b. The mariner must furnish three unmounted dull finished photographs of passport type (2 inches by 1.5 inches) taken within one year showing the full face at least one inch in height with the head uncovered. Some REC's are equipped with cameras for this purpose. Before purchasing photos, check with the REC at which you plan to apply.
- c. Applicants who indicate the use of drugs or conviction of drug related offenses, other criminal convictions or National Driver Register motor vehicle convictions may not be eligible for an MMD.
- d. Applicants must present acceptable evidence of citizenship at the time of filing the original application. Acceptable evidence of citizenship includes an original or certified copy of: birth certificate; certificate of naturalization (only original is acceptable); baptismal certificate; or, a valid U.S. passport.
- e. Aliens applying for a MMD must present acceptable documentary evidence from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that the alien is lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. This evidence may be in the form of an alien registration receipt card issued by the INS bearing the certification that the alien was admitted to the United States as an immigrant, or a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the U.S. issued by a naturalization court.

For additional information concerning qualifications, requirements and interpretations of applicable regulations and policy, contact the nearest REC. There is a fee for the issuance of an MMD.

MARITIME EMPLOYMENT

Employment on U.S. flag cargo ships is handled for the most part by maritime labor unions. Contacts for information on entry level employment follow:

National Maritime Union of America
1150 17th St., N.W., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
202-466-7060

Seafarers International Union
5201 Auth Way
Camp Springs, MD 20746
301-899-0675

Additional organizations for other areas concerning maritime employment are listed as follows:

The Lake Carriers Association Suite 915, 614 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 44113, can furnish information regarding employment opportunities for marine personnel on the Great Lakes. Telephone: 216-861-0592, or email: ggn@lcaships.com Internet: “www.lcaships.com”

The Military Sealift Command (MSC) Department of the Navy, operates numerous merchant-type ships manned by civilian crews employed under civil service regulations. Previous U.S. Navy or U.S. Coast Guard experience is a major consideration in filling available jobs. Salaries of civilian crew members aboard MSC ships are based on wage rates and practices which are similar to the commercial shipping industry. The MSC employment office is as follows:

Director, Afloat Personnel Management Center
P.O. Box 120
Virginia Beach, VA 23458-0120
800-793-4628
Internet: “www.msc.navy.mil”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, operates floating equipment which is used to maintain and improve the Nation’s waterways. These vessels are also manned by civilian crews who are employed under civil service regulations. Employment opportunities are very limited. Federal employment opportunities with the Corps of Engineers are advertised with the Office of Personnel Management at “www.usajobs.opm.gov”.

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, operates high seas and inland oceanographic research and survey vessels. Most of the operating personnel are under civil service regulations. Employment centers are as follows:

DOC/HRD Eastern Administrative Support Center
200 World Trade Center Norfolk, VA 23510
757-441-3837.
Internet: “www.usajobs.opm.gov”

NOAA Western Region Personnel Division Bldg. 1
7600 Sand Point Way, NE Seattle, WA 98115
206-526-6051

MARITIME TRAINING

The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and the State maritime academies provide officer entry training which takes from 3 to 4 years to complete. The Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship provides crew apprenticeship training which takes approximately 1 year to complete. Some of the other programs listed below also offer a continuing education or skills upgrading component. Certain courses at labor operated schools are for members only. Student costs, enrollment levels and entry qualifications will vary. A list of schools follows:

Federal Merchant Marine Academy

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, NY 11024
516-773-5000 or on the web: "www.usmma.edu"

State Maritime Academies

State University of New York Maritime College
Fort Schuyler, NY 10465 718-409-7200 or 1-800-654-1874 in New York State, or 1-800-642-1874 in the Northeast, or on the web:
"www.sunymaritime.edu"

Maine Maritime Academy

Castine, ME 04420
1-800-464 6565 in Maine , or 1-800-227-8465
out-of-state, or by email:
admissions@bell.mma.edu

Texas State Maritime Program

Texas A&M University at Galveston
P.O. Box 1675 Galveston, TX 77553
1-800-850-6376

Massachusetts Maritime Academy Buzzards

Bay, MA 02532 1-800-544-3411
or 508-830-5000 or by email:
mmadmit@mma.mass.edu

California Maritime Academy Vallejo, CA

94590 1-800-561-1945 or 707-654-1330 or by
email: enroll.csum.edu

Great Lakes Maritime Academy
Northwestern Michigan College
Traverse City, MI 49686-3061
231-922-1200 or 1-800-748-0566 ext.1200
"www.nmc.edu/~maritime"

Maritime Labor Operated Schools

The Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of
Seamanship
Piney Point, MD 20674
301-994-0010 or 1-877-235-3275 or on the web:
"www.seafarers.org/phc/entry.html"

Andrew Furuseth School Of Seamanship
450 Harrison Street
San Francisco , CA 94405
415-546-1537

Calhoon MEBA Engineering School
27050 St. Michaels Road, Easton MD 21601
410-822-9600 or by email:
mebaschool@aol.com or on the web at
"www.calhoonmeba.com"

Maritime Institute of Technology & Graduate
Studies
5700 Hammonds Ferry Road
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090
410-859-5700 or by email:
admissions@mitags.org

National Maritime Union
NMU Education Fund
Brooklyn, NY 11232
718-965-7449

Training Site:

The Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of
Seamanship
Piney Point, MD 20674
301-994-0010 or 877-235-3275

IBU Job Corps Seamanship Training Program
Tongue Point Job Corps Center Astoria, OR 97103
503-325-8475 or by email: ibusm@pacifier.com

American Maritime Officers Safety & Education
Plan-RTM Center for Advanced Maritime
Officers Training a/k/a RTM STAR Center
2 West Dixie Highway
Dania Beach, Florida 33004
TEL (800) 445-4522, (954) 921-7254
FAX (800) 431-8815, (954) 920-4268
"www.star-center.com"

American Maritime Officers Safety and
Education Plan-School of Marine Engineering
and Navigation I Maritime Plaza Toledo, OH
43604 800-221-9395

American Radio Association-Technology
Institute for Maritime Electronics (ARA-TIME)
360 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor,
New York, NY 10001 212-594-7422 or by
email: arany@mindspring.com

Other Non- Profit Schools

Seamen's Church Institute
Center for Maritime Education
241 Water Street
New York, NY 10038
212-233-2242

Southern Maine Technical College
2 Fort Road
South Portland, ME 04106
207-767-9500 and on the web: "www.smtc.net"

Kingsborough Community College
Office of Marine Education
201 Oriental Boulevard
Brooklyn, NY 11235
718-368-5525 or by
email: jmuzio@kbcc.cuny.edu

Specialized Safety Courses

The U.S. Coast Guard and MARAD jointly approve
courses in marine fire fighting, collision avoidance
navigation, radar, vessel stability and emergency
medical. For information contact the following:

U.S. Coast Guard
National Maritime Center
4200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 510
Arlington, VA 22203-1804
202-493-1000

or

Maritime Administration
MAR-250
Room 7302
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590
202-366-5755

MARAD Marine Fire Fighting

Maritime Administration offices provide information on local practical marine fire fighting courses that are approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. In addition the agency advertises availability of some firefighting courses on the Department of Transportation's "Do It Yourself "(DIY) website which is on the web at: "www.diy.dot.gov:13001/diyhome.htm." For direct information, contact the following:

Maritime Administration
North Atlantic Region Fire Training Registrar
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3737
New York, NY 10278
212-264-1380

or

Maritime Administration
MARAD/MSC Fire School
1029 Highway 33 East
Freehold, NJ 07728
732-938-5190

Maritime Administration
Great Lakes Region Fire Training Center
2600 Eber Road
Swanton, OH 43558
419-259-6362

Maritime Administration
Western Region Fire Training Registrar
201 Mission Street, Suite 2200
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-744-3125

Ship Operations Cooperative Program (SOCP)

SOCP is a unique government/industry program that promotes safe and efficient ship operations and has developed several training videos for industry and training school use. Further Information on the videos and other training projects are described on the SOCP website at "www.socp.org." Information is also available at MARAD by calling 202-366-4125.

The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program (GAM)

Attn:DRP-2
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590-0001
"<http://education.dot.gov>" or
email: garrett.morgan@rspa.dot.gov

Who—Garrett Morgan (1877-1963) was an African-American inventor who was born in Kentucky and lived his adult life in Cleveland, Ohio. His lifetime of contributions to public service, public safety, and technological innovation illustrate President Clinton's belief that "America cannot afford to waste one person. One of his most notable inventions was the traffic signal, a device which provided the foundation for managing traffic flows in the 20th century. This technology has been electrified, then computerized, but not replaced because the science of its use was both revolutionary and ahead of its time.

What—The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program has three goals:

- To build a bridge between America's youth and the transportation community;
- To support the development of improved educational technology that provides better ways for people to acquire new skills; and
- To ensure that America's transportation workforce for the 21st century is technologically literate and internationally competitive.

Why—Much of the seasoned transportation workforce is retiring. The demand for both traditional and new skills is expanding. The nation's need for technologically literate transportation workers continues to grow.

How—The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program will serve as a catalyst to enhance transportation education at all levels by:

- Leveraging the Department's current technology, education, and research programs; and
- Forging public/private partnerships.

When—By 2000, the Morgan Program will have reached 1 million students.

Components of the Morgan Program

The program consists of four components:

1. Math, Science, and Technology Literacy Challenge (K-12)
2. Community College Partnership
3. Undergraduate and Graduate Opportunities
4. Life-long Learning

(Using the web address above click on any of these components for details)

Visit us at our Maritime Administration
website location:

<http://www.marad.dot.gov>

ALSO

Visit the U.S. Coast Guard website for licensing
and documentation information:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/marpers/pers.htm>